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Friends of the National



is a nonprofit organization of individuals, families, and organizations who are interested in helping to maintain the status of the National Zoological Park as one of the world's great zoos, to foster its use for education, research, and recreation, to increase and improve its facilities and collections, and to advance the welfare of its animals.

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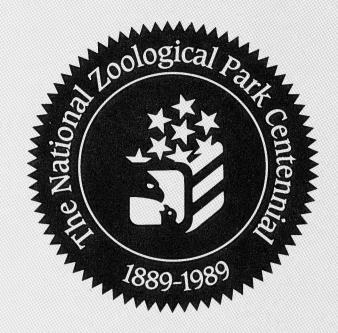
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This issue was written by Alexa Mergen.

Cover: Looking northerly across Rock Creek in the late 19th century. (NZP Archives)



From Bison to BioPark

From Bison to BioPark: 100 Years at the National Zoological Park" is the title of a new exhibit at the Zoo—not an animal exhibit but a history of the Zoo in pictures. This special issue of ZooGoer has been prepared as a catalogue to accompany—and to amplify—this Centennial exhibit. Tracing the Zoo's history from its humble beginnings with a few bison on the Mall near the Capitol to the Park of the present day and beyond, this exhibit catalogue offers unique glimpses into the people, animals, and events that shaped the Zoo during its first one hundred years.

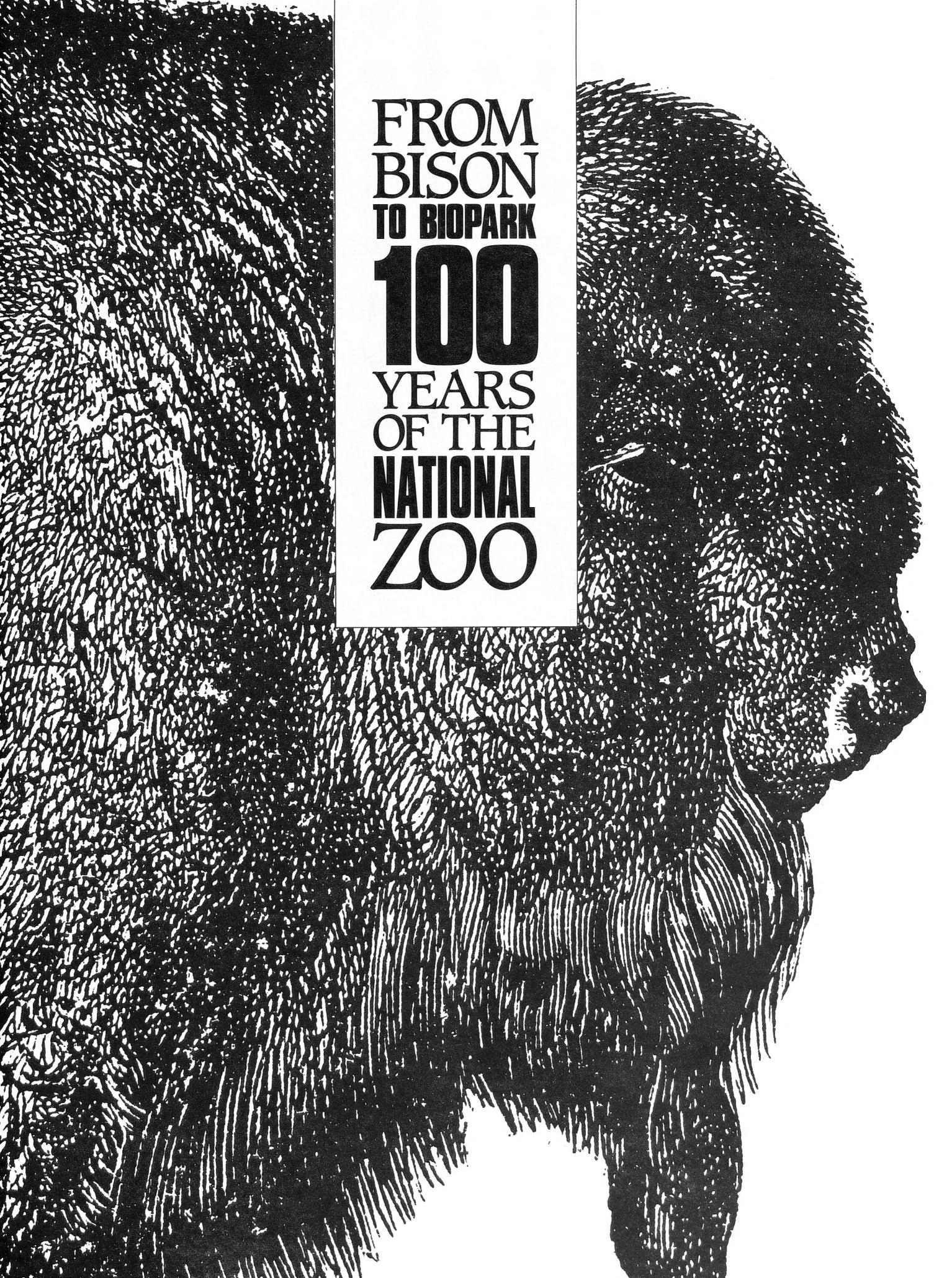
The path to the Zoo's present excellence was not always a smooth one. The Zoo was often strapped for funds and facilities and struggled to live up to its mission of providing a national zoological park for "the advancement of science and the instruction and recreation of the people." The last 30 years, since the Zoo's full incorporation into the Smithsonian Institution and the founding of Friends of the National Zoo, have seen the Zoo finally achieve internationally recognized preeminence not only in its exhibits and animal collections but in research, conservation, and education as well. And the future BioPark, now in the making, will transform the whole concept of a zoological park and set new standards for the Smithsonian mission of the "increase and diffusion of knowledge."

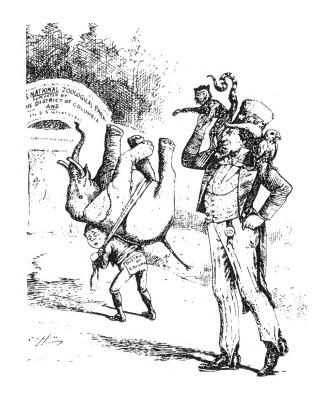
Through all the ups and downs, however, the Zoo never lost its immense popularity with the public, and it remains today one of Washington's premier attractions. Generations of Washingtonians have enjoyed the Zoo—and enjoyed watching it change and grow. I invite you to look at the exhibit pictures that follow through their eyes and imagine the Zoo of yesterday. Then, imagine the Zoo of the future, through the eyes of your children and generations of Americans to come.

Clinton A. Fields

Executive Director

Friends of the National Zoo





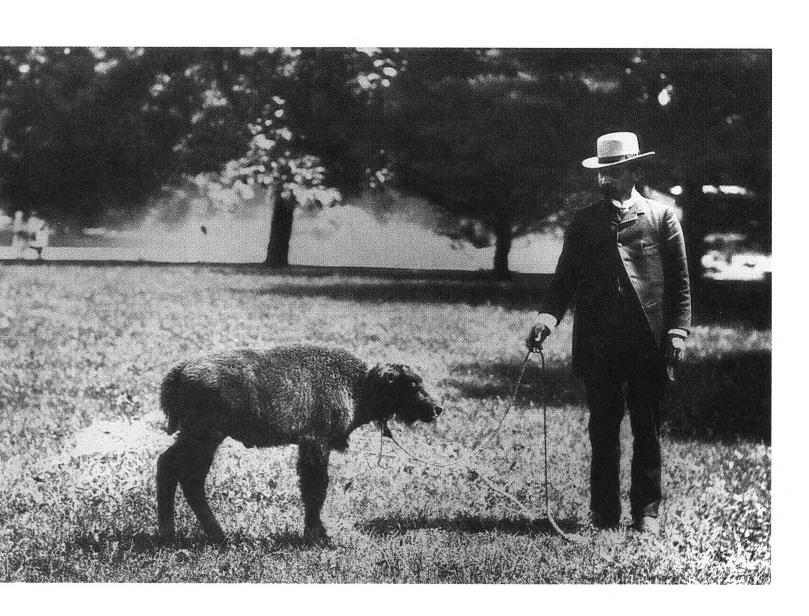
This 1890 cartoon satirizes the Zoo's financial relationship with Congress.

The Washington Sunday Herald/Smithsonian Institution Archives

The 1880s: An Idea Is Born

oward the close of the 19th century, as the railroad spread and towns sprang up throughout the West, populations of native wildlife began to decline as hunting and human settlements increased. Epitomized by bison on the open range, the country's abundant wildlife represented a cornucopia of natural riches that many Americans regarded as their national birthright. Yet by 1887 the American bison faced extinction and many other North American animals were thought similarly doomed. The enormity of this potential loss provided the impetus for America's first conservation movement.

In 1886, at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., thousands of miles from the dwindling bison herds, William Temple Hornaday, chief taxiderm-





ist for the fledgling National Museum, proposed an expedition to Montana to gather specimens of America's native animals, for museum display, before they disappeared completely. But Hornaday's experience with live bison transformed him from a collector, who obtains animals for taxidermy, to an ardent conservationist. In March of 1887, he proposed that the Smithsonian establish a National Zoological Park in Washington; the following October, the Department of Living Animals opened on the Mall. The exhibit served as a "little try-out zoo," for Hornaday to "test the interest of the American public in collections of living animals." In addition, the live specimens contributed to the Smithsonian's taxidermists' studies of groups of North American mammals.

Washingtonians flocked to the small exhibit, and donations of animals arrived from all over the country. Soon the "zoo" contained a variety of North American animals including mule deer, prairie dogs, badgers, lynx, and a few exotic pets, such as a cockatoo. President and Mrs. Cleveland donated a golden eagle

William Temple Hornaday with bison calf in 1889.

Smithsonian Institution Archives



From 1889 to 1891 these bison and other American animals were on public view near the Smithsonian Castle.

Smithsonian Institution Archives

and a white-tailed deer fawn.

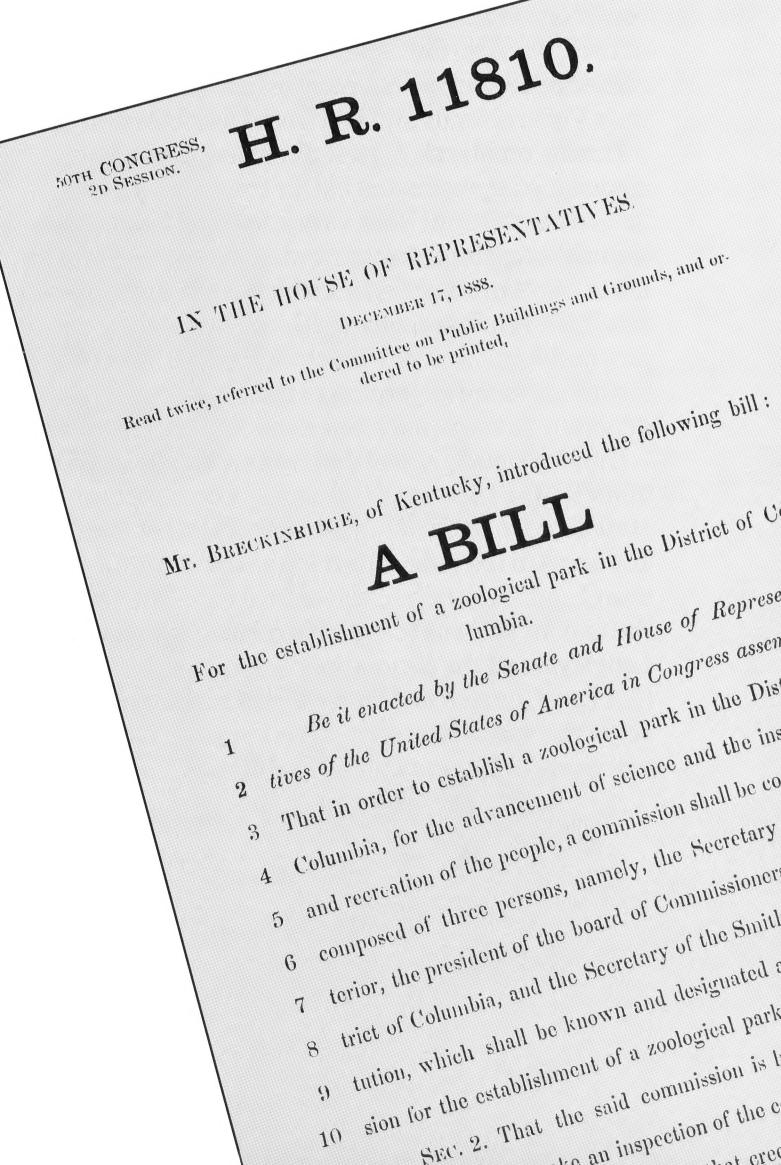
As the Mall collection continued to grow, Hornaday's proposed zoo appeared more feasible. Hornaday and the new Secretary of the Smithsonian, physicist and astronomer Samuel Pierpont Langley, surveyed Washington for an area where "a home and a city of refuge for the vanishing races of the continent" could be established. The Smithsonian commissioned Hornaday to find a suitable location in the area of Rock Creek, the strip of hilly land that runs through Northwest Washington and comprises part of the ancient geographic province called the Piedmont.

Congress spent two sessions—1888 and 1889—

debating the value of the proposed zoo. Certain senators and representatives became spokesmen for the Smithsonian and established a commission to develop plans for the new Park. They planned a national scientific institution to shelter and breed North American animals. They determined that Yellowstone, the first national park, would provide live specimens, and that the federal government would allocate funds as it did for the Smithsonian Museum. A few Congressmen ridiculed the implied scientific value of such a Zoo, suggesting "a possum or coon hunting ground"

President Cleveland signed this bill into law on March 2, 1889 to establish the National Zoological Park.

Smithsonian Institution Archives





or a national traveling circus in its stead. Ultimately, most perceived the proposed Zoo as mere local entertainment, a role zoos had traditionally served. The compromise adopted was that, under the Organic Act of 1878, the Zoo, like other District public works included in the Act, would receive half of its support from Federal funds and half from District taxes.

Finally, on March 2, 1889, President Cleveland signed the appropriation bill for the acquisition of land in the valley of Rock Creek for the National Zoological Park. Hornaday attributed the success of the bill to the "crowd of visitors which daily thronged to a small, illy ventilated and highly uncomfortable temporary building"; a crowd which "furnished abundant testimony to the eagerness of the American people generally to learn more about our American fauna."

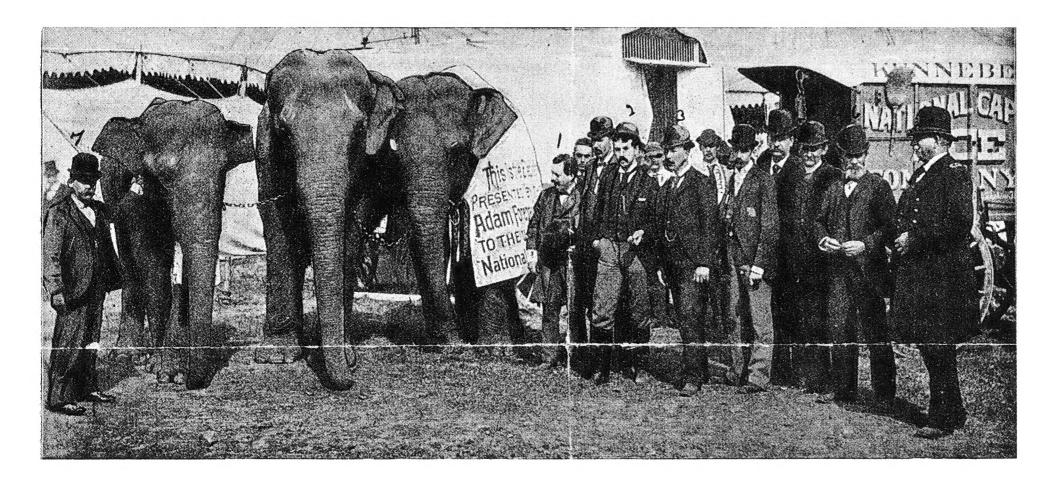
Langley's plans reveal that he expected the connection with the District of Columbia to be temporary. He wanted to open only about one-fourth of the Zoo's 166 acres to the public, develop a small area for research, administration, and animal care, and reserve the rest for animals to breed in relative freedom. Langley hired the famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted to develop a plan that would preserve the natural features of the terrain and disguise fences and other man-made intrusions. This plan was

never fully realized, however, and only today is the Zoo building a path through the Park that more closely follows Olmsted's original plan.

Hornaday, a nationally recognized naturalist and international traveler, similarly envisioned a conservation center in which herds of endangered species, such as the bison, could live. However, Hornaday felt that Langley was not letting him play an important enough role in the planning of the Zoo and realized that dependence on District funds would limit its development. He resigned in 1890 and soon joined the effort to create a zoo in New York city.



Olmsted (in the light suit), Langley (facing camera) and Hornaday (to Langley's left), and surveyors planned the layout of the Zoo in 1889.



These elephants, Dunk and Gold Dust, donated by the Adam Forepaugh Circus, became the Zoo's first residents in 1891.

Smithsonian Institution Archives

1890s to 1920s: Rough Beginnings

officially opened to the public. Followed by a trail of Washington school children, Dunk and Gold Dust, Asian elephants donated by the Adam Forepaugh Circus, paraded from the circus grounds on New Jersey Avenue to the new Park. Under the direction of Dr. Frank Baker, named Superintendent of the Zoo by Langley in 1890, and with the experience of Headkeeper William H. Blackburne, a former employee of Barnum and Bailey Circus, the Park began to grow.

The Zoo continually lacked funds, however. In 1891, the Senate failed to persuade the House to change the form of appropriation in order to place the Zoo completely under Federal funding. In addition,

Congress halved the amount required for development and forbade any funds to be spent on animal acquisition. These cuts forced Langley to revise his plans, develop most of the land, and create a more conventional menagerie. Congress implied that future allocations would depend on the Park's continued success with the public.

Consequently, in an effort to obtain what Langley considered "interesting animals" that would make "some show," the Zoo accepted all animals offered for donation, including native rabbits, squirrels, and raccoons. In addition, the Adam Forepaugh circus used





the National Zoo as a winter depository for its animals, including a rare Sumatran rhinoceros, a species now critically endangered.

Overwhelmed with animals, the Zoo erected temporary shelters and keepers learned about animal management through trial and error. The bear enclosures, for example, were "picturesque and effective from the landscape architect's point of view," Baker said, but were "not sanitary, constantly damp, too cold in the winter, and too hot in the summer." The design of other buildings placed esthetics over practicality. A rustic log cabin sheltered the bison and elk; the llamas lived in a Norwegian-style thatched hut. Olmsted's son and stepson continued to consult with the Zoo, but the Zoo lacked the money to realize their plans for numerous, centralized buildings and extensive walkways through the Park.

This late 19th century bear den was carved out of an abandoned stone quarry.

Smithsonian Institution Archives



This Eskimo dog pup was part of an 1898 exhibit of domestic dogs.

NZP Archives

Parking Lot C now occupies the area where this yak stood in the early 1900s.

NZP Archives

Superintendent Baker, a professor of comparative anatomy, visited zoos in Cincinnati and Philadelphia and learned to care for wild animals in captivity. Afraid that a small Zoo would "make the whole scheme seem abortive and ridiculous," he expanded the collection as rapidly as possible. Baker's park immediately satisfied the public. Hundreds of area residents were visiting the Zoo daily via the Rock Creek electric railway. Others arrived on horseback or by motor car. In a single day in 1893, more than 2,000 people entered through the western (now the Con-



Opposite page: The traditional Easter egg roll on what is now Lion/Tiger Hill, the Monday after Easter, 1910.

necticut Avenue) entrance. The explosive popularity of the Zoo, and Congressional pressure, affected the design of the Park.

"In place, for instance, of the large inexpensive paddocks for enclosing and sheltering the animals under the conditions of wildlife, and secluding them with the aim of enabling them to increase in the undisturbed retirement necessary, must be substituted comparatively expensive buildings with the aim of exhibiting the animals obtained," Langley explained. "A system of roadways that should afford the public access to all parts of the park where animals are kept had to be devised...the necessity was imposed of forming the National Zoological Park more on the model of an ordinary Zoological garden, than of the first large and simple idea."

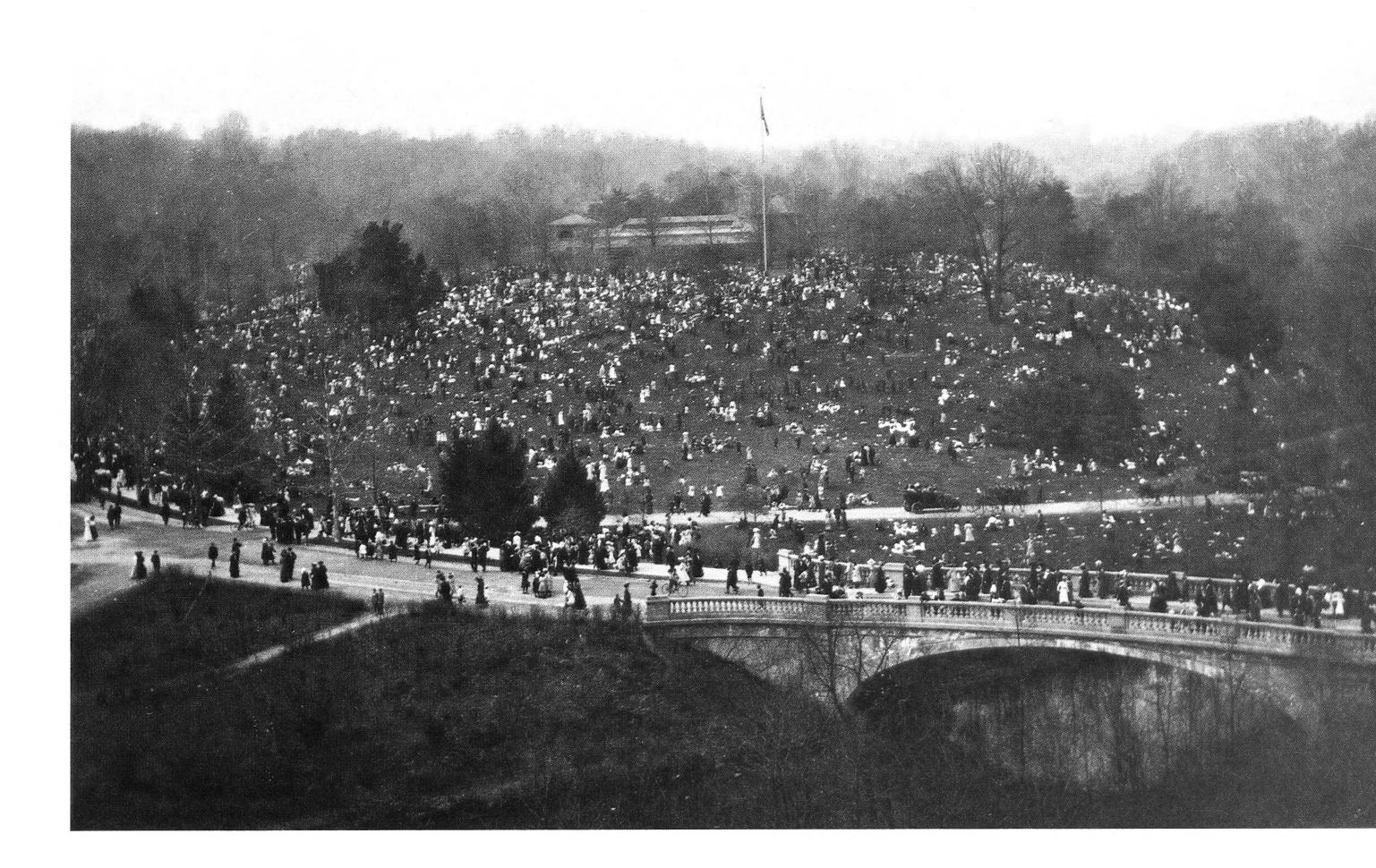
Although the National Zoo developed conventional displays, Langley remained loyal to his scientific goals. He urged Baker to "give prominence to the native races, keeping the others quite subordinate." An



Early animal cages, such as this lion's, were small and barred.

NZP Archives

1893 domestic dog collection, for example, exhibited various breeds to show the variation within a single species. Donations arrived from private individuals and kennels around the country, including Eskimo dogs from Admiral Peary's North Pole expedition. Neighbors complained of the barking, however, and





Children arriving at the Zoo in a trolley.

Photo by Frances B. Johnston/Library of Congress

with the acquisition of more exotic animals, the exhibit declined and died out in 1924.

Gradually, the Zoo became more selective about its specimens. The staff acquired animals through trade with other Zoos and requested particular species from U.S. foreign service officers stationed abroad. Superintendent Baker pressured Congress to increase the Park's funding and one by one, better enclosures were constructed, including a freshwater aquarium built in 1898; a 150-foot long flight cage for 50 birds including storks and ibis added in 1902; and the Monkey House, completed in 1906 with stone quarried from Rock Creek. Today, primates still occupy the house, which is the oldest in the Zoo and officially designated an historic building. Through this construction, Baker hoped to rectify the Park's "great disadvantage...that the animals were procured before buildings were ready for them."

Other animals roamed freely through the unfenced Park. A beaver gnawed through its cage and built a new dam in Rock Creek. Ten black squirrels, donated by Ontario's Department of Crown Lands, and 50 gray squirrels purchased for one dollar each, were released in 1902. In 1913, Hornaday predicted that the now common gray squirrel would soon be extinct. "Americans have strangely elected to class it as 'game' and shoot it to death, to eat! It would be just as reasonable and no more barbarous to kill domestic cats and eat them." Throughout the years, however, black, gray, and even albino squirrels, as well as eastern chipmunks, fox squirrels, and prairie hens flourished naturally on the Park's grounds, and Zoo visitors still

see descendants of these chipmunks and squirrels today.

In 1915, Soko was the favorite of Zoo visitors. The largest chimpanzee in captivity, four-and-a-half year old Soko walked hand-in-hand through the Park with Headkeeper Blackburne and entertained humans by eating formal meals at a small table in his cage. Accustomed to traveling circuses and conventional





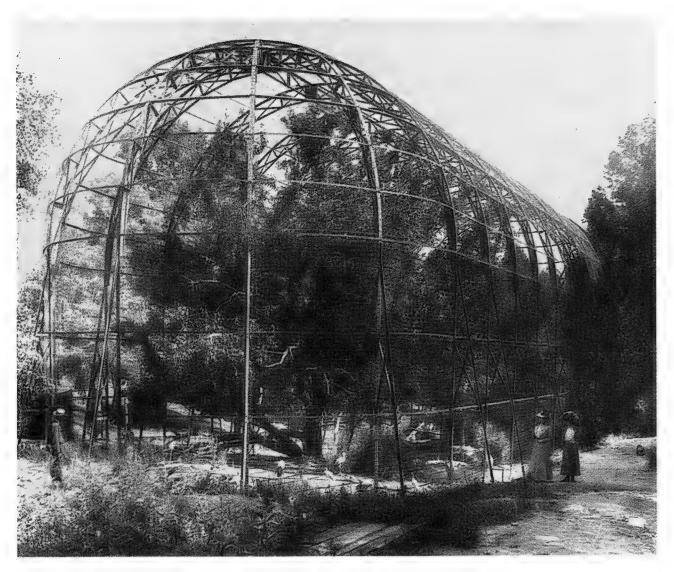
Visitors also arrived on horseback and by car.

NZP Archives



The Monkey House in 1906. Today the exterior of this historic building looks much the same.

NZP Archives



The Zoo's first outdoor flight cage, 1902. The cage was 300 feet long and held 50 birds.

Smithsonian Institution Archives

zoos, the public adored performing animals like Soko. A few years later, Soko escaped during his daily walk and hitched a ride on the Zoo's fruit and vegetable truck. From that day on, he entertained visitors from his cage.

Each of the Zoo's directors put his own stamp on the Park. In 1916, at the age of 75, Baker transferred the directorship to Ned Hollister, former assistant curator of mammals at the National Museum. Hollister rewrote the Zoo's inventory into proper scientific order, setting a precedent for organization and research. Like Hornaday and Langley, Hollister also emphasized conservation. He viewed the Zoo property as a sanctuary for native wild birds and during his first year installed 100 nest boxes throughout the park. Bluebirds, chickadees, nuthatches, wrens, and flickers used the boxes all summer. During the winter, the Zoo provided food for the wild turkey vultures.

After eight years as director, Hollister, described by his friend Wilfred H. Osgood as, "one of the heart and soul born lovers of animals," died. Dr. Alexander Wetmore, an ornithologist, served briefly before becoming Director of the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, and in 1925, was succeeded by Dr. William M. Mann. A renowned entomologist, Mann had worked as a tropical explorer for the Bureau of Entomology, traveling to numerous countries, including Spain, where he studied the Mediterranean fruit fly. A passionate collector, Mann began an ant and beetle collection at the age of seven; when he donated the collection to the Smithsonian in the 1950s, it contained more than 100,000 ants and almost as many beetles.



Dr. William T. Mann and Lucille Mann during a 1931 animal collecting expedition to British Guiana.

Smithsonian Institution Archives

Mid-1920s to 1940: Expeditions...and Rapid Growth

s a member of the Explorers' Club, a private group of adventurers, Mann had already spent years traveling the world to obtain animals for the Zoo, and tackled his new post with enthusiasm. "The opportunity for a great animal collection is unrivaled," he told the press upon his appointment. "With the collecting resources of the Government behind us there is no telling to what extent we may go. I am doing my best to get every department interested. It is a splendid opportunity for real service." At once, Mann set out to increase the collection of animals, especially large African mammals.

A skilled fundraiser, Mann persuaded private donors to finance foreign collecting expeditions. Only a



The old octagonal Elephant House built in 1898 and torn down in 1937.



Dr. Mann with a group of Wagogo people during the 1926 Chrysler expedition to Tanganyika.

NZP Archives

few months into his directorship, Mann interested car magnate Walter P. Chrysler in backing an expedition to Tanganyika (now Tanzania). The United States Marine Corps supplied cots and blankets, and a District hospital supplied the necessary medicine for members of the expedition. The Zoo staff brought back more than 1200 animals, increasing the collection by 50 percent.

Capturing animals often required imagination, Lucy Mann, wife and assistant of William Mann recalled in a 1977 Smithsonian oral history. Once "they caught a gnu, and they didn't have anything to tie it up with, and [Dr. Mann] took his belt off, and...tied the animal's legs together...and the animal shook them off and started bounding off over the horizon, and the movie man said, 'Oh, Bill, do that all over again.'"



Plantation in Monrovia before setting out through the jungle. They traveled by truck until the roads gave out, and then were met by a crew of 80 porters. "We went inland for four days...camping at night. We didn't have tents; we'd commandeer a native hut. We'd just say we want a hut for the night, and some obliging family would move out."

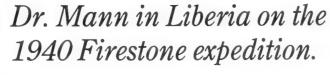
In Belleyella, some soldiers offered to introduce the Manns to members of the secret snake society. "Bill thought it would be fun if we could join the snake society because we were collecting reptiles, and thought if we belonged to the snake society maybe the snake men who were accustomed to handling reptiles would do some collecting for us," Mann said. "So we were initiated into the snake society and it was

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Zoo employees journeyed to Africa, South America, Asia, and the East Indies to acquire animals, and to Europe to visit zoos. Dr. Mann led many large-scale collection expeditions, including a 1937 trip around the world sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution.

Married between expeditions with a weekend honeymoon at the Philadelphia and New York Zoos, Lucy Mann quickly adjusted to life with the Director of the National Zoo. Her oral history gives insight into the different social views as well as the animal collecting techniques of the era. Of the expedition to Liberia, she recalled, "We had some interesting experiences." Harvey Firestone, Jr., the tire magnate, funded the expedition, and the Manns stayed at the Firestone Feeding the hundreds of animals collected on an expedition was an all-day job.

Photo by J. Baylor Roberts /@1938 National Geographic Society







NZP Archives



Keeper feeding a giraffe on board ship, 1937.

Photo by J. Baylor Roberts /@1938 National Geographic Society

quite an interesting performance...we learned the password and the secret signs...they had a live rhinoceros viper, which they hauled out and passed around. Bill picked it up and held it, but luckily I didn't have to."

On expeditions, collectors acquired animals from locals and from village markets. To avoid discouraging local trappers, Dr. Mann accepted nearly everything, and the team often returned with animals they had not intended to collect or did not need. In Sumatra an excited local collector brought the Manns the most unusual animal he had ever seen—an escaped Virginia opossum the expedition had brought from Washington for trade. A soft-shelled turtle that the Manns collected in Liberia still lives in the Reptile House.

Return voyages often lasted longer than a month and entailed hard work. Bananas, pumpkins, melons,

and other produce had to be chopped; eggs and rice had to be cooked; cages had to be cleaned. The voracious African hornbills, during the return from Liberia, were particularly vivid in Mrs. Mann's memory. "You just can't fill them up. They open that enormous beak and you pop down bananas, and balls of rice and everything you can think of, and they open their beaks and howl for more."

In addition to collecting animals, the Manns fre-



Above: Interior of the 1937 Elephant House shows the aluminum relief panel above the cage, and the mural on the back of the cage.

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Left: N'Gi the gorilla on a walk with Blackburne in the 1920s.

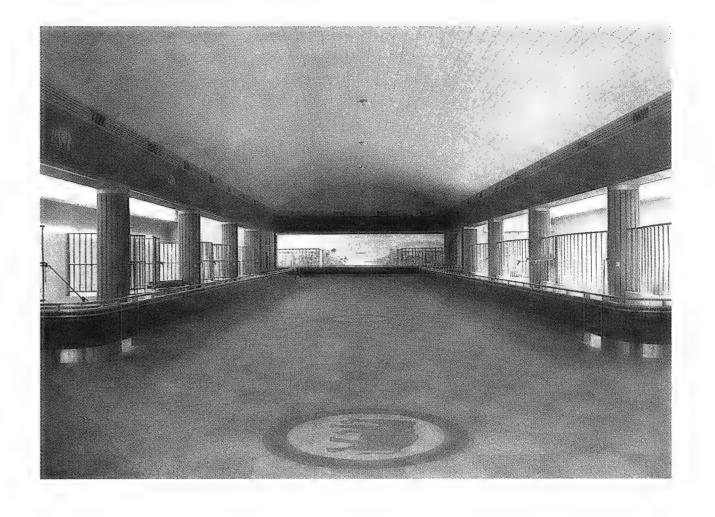
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quently hand-raised newborns in their apartment across from the Zoo. At that time, the Zoo had neither a veterinarian nor a hospital and relied on novel medical techniques to treat ailing animals. For example, when the Zoo's first gorilla, N'Gi, developed a lung infection in 1932, Eleanor Medill (Cissy) Patterson, publisher of Washington's *Times-Herald* ordered an oxygen tent from New York, the first one in the District. A well-known lung surgeon operated on N'Gi, and although the animal died, oxygen tents became standard in Children's Hospital from that point on.

Despite the staff's hard work and dedication, the rapidly expanding Zoo continued to suffer financially due to the division of responsibility between the District of Columbia and the Federal governments. The Zoo was administered by the Smithsonian, but received its funds from the District, which was already strapped by the growing demands of building schools and health care facilities. In a 1929 article in the *National Republic*, Lucy Mann wrote, "The great and crying need of the National Zoo is for proper buildings to house the animals." At that time, many animals, including Kechil, the Sumatran elephant, lived in sheds built for the original Zoo inhabitants.

Below: The first permanent Bird House opened in 1928 and is still in use today.

NZP Archives



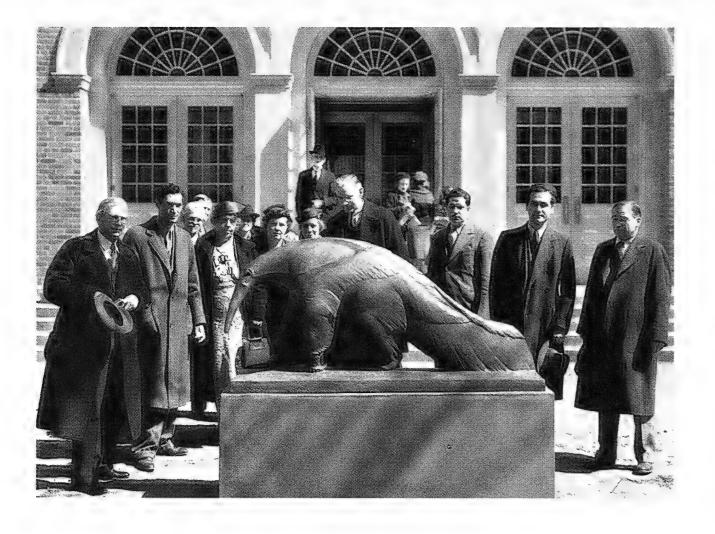
Elephant House with medallions set in floor, 1937.

Photo by A.J. Olmsted/NZP Archives

Then, in 1929 the New York stock market crashed and the Great Depression began. To alleviate the hardship workers felt nationwide, the New Deal made monies available for projects through the Works Progress Administration and Public Works Administration. Created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to employ workers and stimulate the economy, these programs provided the Zoo with money for several new buildings in the 1930s. The new buildings marked a shift in the Zoo's architecture from hastily constructed shacks to beautiful edifices more suited to the animals' needs.

The new Bird House contained a flight cage unique





The unveiling of the giant anteater statue on March 25, 1938.

NZP Archives

to zoo buildings. A sulphur-crested cockatoo that had lived at the Zoo since 1889 became the first occupant. Visitors praised the mosaic doorway and the plaza lined with Japanese cherry trees. "It's a place where the people and the birds can meet each other," Mann commented. "If the birds want to know the people better they can fly as close as they wish. If they have better ideas, they can sit up on the rocks and stare."

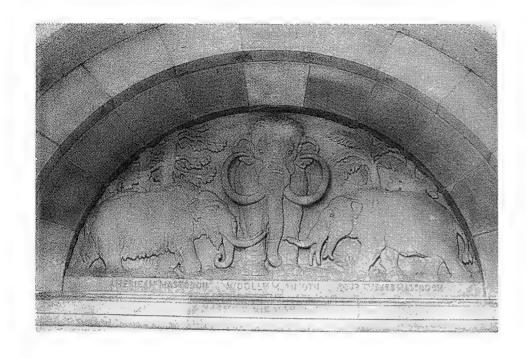
Three thousand guests, including government

officials and noted scientists, attended the 1931 opening of the Reptile House. Red brick, with a Romanesque facade carved with fantastical reptiles, and heavy, sculpted doors, the building became famous immediately. Animals were displayed on the first floor and cold storage rooms and offices for scientific research occupied the second. The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists congratulated Congress and the Zoo, saying, "The society regards the building of this reptile house as an outstanding development in public education in America." The American Institute of Architects voted it "the outstanding brick building in the Eastern United States." Both the Bird House and the Reptile House are still in use today.

In addition to expanding the collection and skillfully raising funds for new buildings, Mann took advantage



The 1935 tumbling bear sculpture is still popular with kids today.



Ernest Springweiler carved this stone bas-relief, designed by Charles Knight, to go above a door in the Elephant House in 1937.

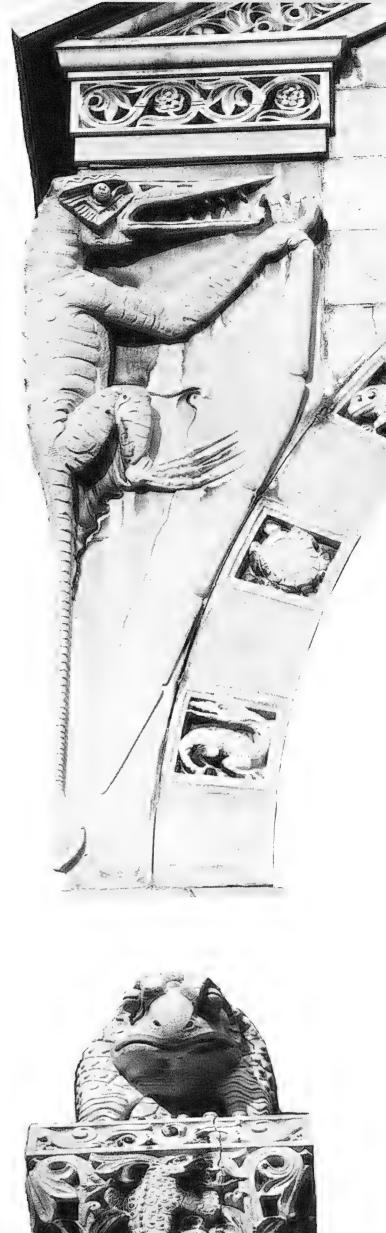
NZP Archives

of the Public Works of Art Project (PWAP) and the Treasury Relief Art Project (TRAP) that paid unemployed artists to decorate government buildings. Well-known PWAP and TRAP artists such as Charles R. Knight and Domenico Mortellito painted the backs of enclosures in the Reptile, Bird, and Pachyderm houses to suggest the animals' natural settings. Murals included an Egyptian scene with papyrus in the hippo enclosure and African acacia trees in the giraffe enclosure. The murals have since faded and been painted over but the intricate aluminum relief panels above the enclosures in the Elephant House by Charles Knight, the statue of tumbling bears by Heinz Warneke, and the giant anteater by Erwin Springweiler remain.

Below and at right: Details from the 25-foot marble columns on the 1931 Reptile House facade.

Photos by Olivia Carlisle









Toucan cage with Depression-era paintings, 1949.

NZP Archives



1940s to Mid-1950s: War and the Aftermath

he rapid growth of the previous decade stopped in 1939 with the onset of World War II and the ensuing shortages of money, manpower, animals, and animal food. International conflict prevented the acquisition of animals through expeditions or trade, and the Zoo shipped dangerous animals such as venomous snakes to mid-American zoos to prevent their escape in case of a bomb attack. London's Regent's Park Zoo sent their

performing sea lion to the National Zoo for safekeeping—he became a particular favorite. Remaining Zoo employees learned to use weapons and how to respond to an air raid. Many of the Zoo staff were drafted into the armed forces, including the first, newly hired, full-time veterinarian. Throughout the war years, one-fifth of all positions remained vacant.

Although staff numbers declined, attendance at the Zoo swelled. Joining the usual crowds, soldiers from around the country visited a large zoo for the first time while stationed in D.C., and nurses and Red Cross drivers regularly brought sick and injured soldiers for day's outings at the Zoo. As part of a Smith-

Loo i rades Poisonous anakes For Harmless New Animals

Instead of destroying the poisonous snakes at the Zoo, Director William M. Mann has traded them for miscellaneous animals which would be quite harmless if liberated by an air raid.

In the trade, Dr. Mann received a brought in a pair of parrot finches. pair of curly-haired highland cattle from Scotland, no larger than Newfoundland dogs and somewhat resembling the shaggy canines. They are the first of their type ever seen here.

Included in the trade were two big additional spider monkeys from South America harmless by the extraction of their with prehensile tails of a utility fangs.

equal to an extra hand or foot. The monkeys have astonishingly long arms, legs and tails, and are the star acrebats of American jungles.

The reptiles which were to be sacrificed as a safety precaution also

The snakes, which probably will be exhibited in inland cities, included West African vipers, cobras from Eastern Asia and American rattlesnakes.

Dr. Mann said he hoped to obtain rattlesnakes rendered Excerpt from an article in the Washington Star, March 1942.

NZP Archives

sonian program, Zoo experts, like Dr. Mann who had traveled through the tropics, prepared information on snakes and other potentially dangerous animals for military medical staff stationed abroad.

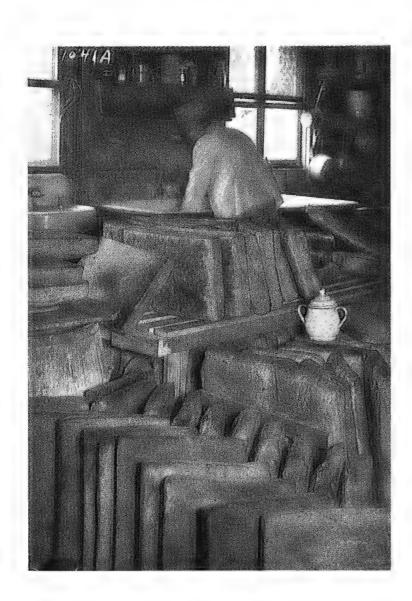
The Zoo staff struggled to find substitutes for the animal food they could no longer acquire, for example dried Mexican flies that replaced the ant eggs previously imported from Germany and Japan for certain bird species. Monkeys and birds were given a paste of cooked sweet potatoes, white potatoes, and honey in place of bananas. Local grocery stores donated vegetable trimmings and food deemed unfit for human consumption, such as 426 cases of old sauer-kraut and three barrels of crabmeat. Unable to purchase day-old bread from bakers restricted to baking fewer loaves due to war-time rationing, the staff made "bear bread," enriched with bran, in the Zoo commissary. In addition, employees cultivated Victory Gardens on unused Park land.

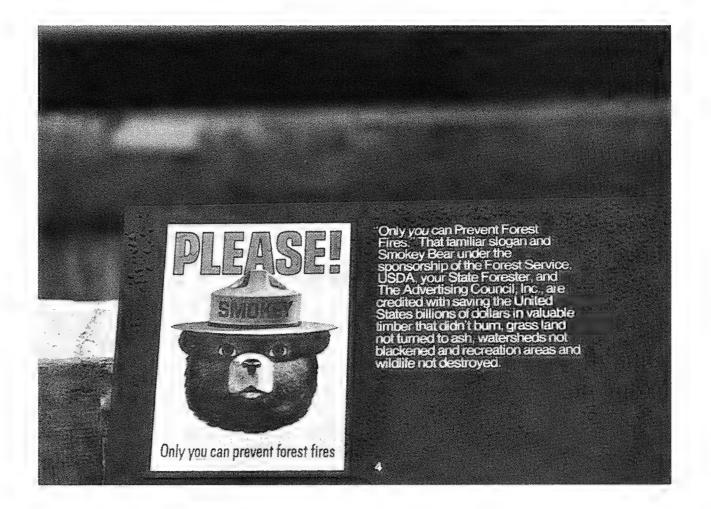
In 1944, Zoo staff organized a retirement party for Blackburne, who had served as head keeper for 52 years and had never taken a vacation or a day of sick leave. President Hoover even extended "Blackie's" retirement date so the keeper could work through his eighties. Known at both Ringling Brothers and the Zoo for his special facility with animals, Blackburne always unloaded newly delivered animals.

"Of course, what he loved were the big cats, and so did Bill [Mann]," Lucy Mann remembered in her oral

Right: Baking bear bread in the Zoo commissary, 1934.

NZP Archives





A sign next to Smokey's cage explains the dangers of forest fires.

history. "The two of them would spend hours in the Lion House just looking at the lions and tigers and talking about famous animals of the past. He could do wonders with the big cats. He had a lion escape once, this was years before I knew the Zoo. It got out of the cage somehow or other. Blackie took a broom and just holding the broom, told the lion to get back in his cage, and the lion did. Blackie locked him in safely."

When Blackburne retired, Frank Lowe, Black-



Children watching bears in the 1950s.



A local vet with Smokey Bear in New Mexico in 1950.

United States Park Service

burne's assistant for 35 years, became the new head keeper.

After the War, funds for renovations remained scarce, but the Zoo began to receive gifts again. In 1950, Smokey Bear arrived. Rescued with a singed paw from a forest fire in the Lincoln National Park in New Mexico, the four-month old, orphaned cub became a living symbol of the United States Park Service's campaign to prevent forest fires. Initiated in 1942, the campaign was originally a response to fears that American forests might be sabotaged during war time. The Park Service erected an exhibit next to Smokey's cage in the Zoo. The display of a big hat, shovel, baggy trousers, and a jar of honey satisfied

children who expected to see the well-known Smokey in full uniform. Money, hundreds of pounds of honey, pink plush bunnies at Easter, and an average of 5,000 letters a week were sent to the famous bear at his own zip code. Smokey remained a favorite until he died of natural causes in 1976 and Smokey II, another American black bear cub with a similar history, came to replace him. Smokey is buried in New Mexico, and Smokey II still lives at the Zoo.

In 1955, the Zoo hired Dr. Theodore H. Reed as the first full-time veterinarian since 1942. When he arrived, the Zoo lacked money for both medicine and equipment. Drug salesmen contributed free samples, and Reed often bought medicine for the animals on a daily basis—and with his own money. He operated on a table in the small hospital, built in the early part of the century. During his first year, Reed treated 119 mammals, 17 reptiles, and 25 birds. In 1956 Mann retired at the age of 70, and Reed became Acting Director.



The caricaturized Smokey became famous in the 1950s and continues to be a symbol of fire prevention.

Opposite page: Dr. Reed (left) and colleague feeding a sea snake in 1957.

A year later, the Zoo hired another veterinarian, Dr. James F. Wright, allowing Reed to devote himself to administration and research; he became Director in 1958. Both Wright and Reed helped develop the CapChur gun, a specialized gun used to immobilize animals with a tranquilizing dart. "With this type of therapy," Wright explained, "it is not necessary to rope, manhandle, trap, cage, or exhaust either animals or keepers to provide medication. It is successfully used both inside and outside of buildings and in small lots

and large paddocks."

Tranquilizers and the Cap-Chur gun enable animals to be transported quickly and efficiently by airplane, ensuring far greater success than early collectors such as the Manns had during their long sea voyages with stressed animals. Between 1971 and 1976, for example, the Zoo's black leopard, Kalu, traveled to zoos in Kansas City, St. Louis, and Chicago to father litters. Today, breeding loans are commonplace.



Opposite page: A 1958 Washington Star article on the poor condition of the Zoo.

NZP Archives

The Turning Point: Late 1950s to 1960s

ut even this new generation of dedicated staff could not reverse the Zoo's physical decline, which hit its lowest point in 1958. No new buildings had been added in 20 years and existing buildings needed extensive repairs. And in 1958, the worst tragedy in the Zoo's history occurred. A lion snatched a two-and-a-half-yearold girl into its cage when the girl's grandfather lifted her over the guard rail, and she was killed. Her death spurred calls for rapid rehabilitation and modernization of the National Zoo. The Director of the Philadelphia Zoo and two members of the Federal Safety Council inspected the entire NZP facility and prepared a 20-page report that outlined essential improvements such as building renovations and increases in the numbers of keepers and policemen on staff.

The Monkey, Antelope, and Elephant houses, and sections of the Bird House were closed for renovation. Reed recognized the need to advance the Zoo's goals, "the advancement of science and the instruction and recreation of the people," and established specific departments of scientific research, education, and graphics. Congress appropriated monies for capital improvements and eventually assumed full responsibility, through the Smithsonian Institution, for the Zoo's budget in 1966. This financial restructuring

THE ZOO IS UNSAFE

Tragic Death Spurs Plea for Overhaul

By JERRY O'LEARY, Jr.

Star Staff Writer

On May 16, 1958, there was a tragedy at the Washington Zoo.

Julia Ann Vogt, $2\frac{1}{2}$, was snatched between the bars by a lion and mauled to death. Zoo Director Theodore Reed says it is a miracle such a thing hasn't happened before. He feels it could happen tomorrow.

The truth is that the National Zoological Park is falling apart at the seams. Dr. Reed and his assistant,

J. Lear Grimmer, freely admit it.

The situation there is so bad that an outside expert, Freeman Shelley, director of the Philadelphia Zoo, is being brought in to make a top-to-bottom safety survey of the Washington Zoo.

Dr. Reed knows he is going to find plenty wrong:

- The staff of keepers and policemen is undermanned.
- The ill-lighted, monkey house has been closed until money and equipment can be found to make it safe for visitors.
- A keeper and a policeman have been assigned full time to patrol the front of the lion house cages where the little girl was mauled to death by the big cats last month.
- ★ The roof of the bird house is rotted and dangerous from the damage wrought by Hurricane Hazel in 1954.
- Virtually no cage or enclosure at the Zoo is capable of keeping children away from the animals.

Neither Dr. Reed nor Mr. Grimmer believe the patchwork measures, launched after the death of the

Continued on Page A-13, Column 1

eased the demands on the District and guaranteed sufficient money for Zoo improvements. Today, the Smithsonian continues to receive Federal funds to administer the National Zoo.

Also in 1958, after hearing Reed speak on the Zoo's dilapidated condition, a group of concerned local citizens formed what would become the Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ). Mary Ellen Grogan, Barbara Robinson, Rosita Ross, and other members of The

The original FONZ logo.



Cleveland Park Citizens Association wrote a charter and developed a slate of temporary officers, appointing Max Kampelman the first President of FONZ. The retired Dr. Mann donated \$50 to be one of four charter members. Association members wrote letters to the Smithsonian and to the Congress to lobby for funds. The organization proposed to support and aid the aims and objectives of the Zoo in any way possible in order to maintain NZP's status as one of the great zoos of the world.

Beginning with a balloon stand, FONZ came to manage various concessions within the Zoo. Today FONZ operates all of the concessions, including the Mane Restaurant, and turns over the profits to the Zoo to fund research and educational programs. FONZ members, now numbering more than 50,000, and more than 600 volunteers continue to support the Zoo's efforts as well.

The renovation of the Bird House, reopened in 1965, signaled a new approach to exhibits at the Zoo. All the exhibits could be viewed equally well by children and adults. Fine stainless steel wires, plate glass, and curved glass reduced visual barriers. The two-story indoor flight cage received direct sunlight in the winter. Sprinklers and waterfalls helped simulate the humidity and vegetation of the birds' habitats in the wild. "Another phase of the Zoo's rehabilitation plan has reached fruition," reported *The Washington Star* newspaper.

In the early seventies, with increased resources

through the Smithsonian, the Zoo rapidly developed. The Zoo staff expanded to include a resident scientist, animal division managers, an animal behaviorist, a medical technologist, a pathologist, and other specialists. The staff resumed research and renovated and created exhibits. The Hospital and Research Building, completed in 1969, and a keeper training program initiated the same year, guaranteed continued improvements in animal care. In 1972, the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission approved a master plan for the Zoo, the first one ever, outlining specific development stages and thereby ensuring their realization.



The 1965 outdoor flight cage, still in use today.



Ling-Ling as a cub in a tub, soon after her arrival at the Zoo in 1972.

OPPS/Smithsonian Institution

1970s to 1980s: The Modern Zoo

he entire world read of the National Zoo in 1972 when China's Premier Chou En-lai presented President Richard Nixon with two giant pandas, estimated to be three years old. Only about 1000 pandas survive in the bamboo forests of the mountains of southwestern China. Human encroachment on giant panda habitat—which limits the animals to smaller areas—severely affects their survival and giant pandas have become symbols of the modern conservation movement. In Washington, thousands of visitors lined up to watch Hsing-Hsing and Ling-Ling sleep, eat, and play. The pair remains a favorite today, and although breeding

has yet to produce a cub that has survived past infancy, hope remains.

Exhibiting endangered species such as the giant panda contributed to the increased public awareness about habitat destruction, and furthered the Zoo's emphasis on conservation and breeding programs. By studying animals at the Zoo and applying information gathered during field work, Zoo scientists research every aspect of animals' lives, from husbandry, such as discovering that inbreeding leads to higher infant mortality in dorcas gazelles and other species, to pathology, to learn the causes of death in animals. The accessibility of Zoo animals enables scientists to learn through close observation, such as learning about the details of the breeding cycles of animals as diverse as elephant-shrews and bongos.

Through educational programs and graphics, the National Zoo makes information on research discoveries available to the public. In addition, Zoos share information to improve veterinary care and exhibit planning. Often, these research and educational projects require international participation.

The well-known Golden Lion Tamarin Project pio-

Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing drew huge crowds of visitors and press in the 1970s and continue to do so today.

Photo by Jessie Cohen/NZP Graphics



Mrs. Reed with a tiger kitten she hand-reared.

neered at the National Zoo in the early '70s unites many of the aspects of research and education. Many people, primarily at the National Zoo and at Brazil's Poco das Antas Reserve, are cooperating not only to reintroduce zoo-born golden lion tamarins into the protected coastal forest (only about 400 survive in the wild), but also to educate the public about conservation and to study tamarin behavior and ecology both in the wild and in zoos. Because zoo-bred tamarins provide the source for the animals to be released in the wild, scientists study every aspect of the tamarins' lives. Scientists at NZP's Department of Zoological Research document the social lives of the tamarins to facilitate greater reproductive success. Genetic and population management techniques pioneered at the Zoo keep the growing numbers, now residing at many Zoos, genetically diverse. Improved medical care and diets keep them healthy. The number of

Dr. Reed with a golden lion tamarin.

Photo by Ilene Berg

golden lion tamarins in zoos jumped from 70 in 1972 to 371 just 12 years later. Today there are more than 500.

To prepare the tamarins for their release into the forests of Poco das Antas, scientists in the Departments of Mammalogy and Zoological Research designed an innovative "exhibit" for the National Zoo. Every spring, researchers release a family group of tamarins in the trees of Beaver Valley so that the tamarins





Every year since 1986 the golden lion tamarins have been released to roam freely through Beaver Valley.

Photo by Jessie Cohen/NZP Graphics

may begin to learn how to fend for themselves, while retaining access to such provisions as food and a nest box. Several of them wear radio collars so that scientists can test the effectiveness of the radio collars and track the tamarins if they stray. FONZ volunteers spend long hours observing and carefully recording the tamarins' behavior to help scientists determine what necessary survival skills—such as peeling bananas or running on swaying limbs—the tamarins may

After spending the summer free-ranging in the Park, the tamarins are ready; they are examined by veterinarians and sent to Brazil. Scientists continue to

lack.

work with the tamarins for several years, providing provisions until they can cope on their own, studying their behavior, watching for offspring, and comparing them to wild-born tamarins. In addition, Brazilian ecologists have used the golden lion tamarin as a symbol of conservation to educate area residents, especially local landowners and school children. The protection of the Poco das Antas Reserve, which contains a significant portion of the last two percent of the tamarins' habitat, has been crucial to the success of the tamarin project.

The National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center (CRC), established in 1973 on more than 3000



The Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Virginia.

Photo by Jessie Cohen/NZP Graphics



The Wetlands Exhibit near the Bird House, officially opened in March 1989.

Photo by Jessie Cohen/NZP Graphics

acres of a former government livestock research station in Front Royal, Virginia, 80 miles west of the Zoo, encourages development of all aspects of animal sciences. Closed to the public, the Center trains wildlife biologists from developing countries and breeds, houses, and conducts research on a range of endangered bird and mammal species.

Recently, scientists at the Center developed another reintroduction project that includes the study and breeding of the extremely rare Guam rails. The flightless, quail-sized birds became extinct on their native island of Guam when brown tree snakes were accidentally introduced to the island about 45 years ago.

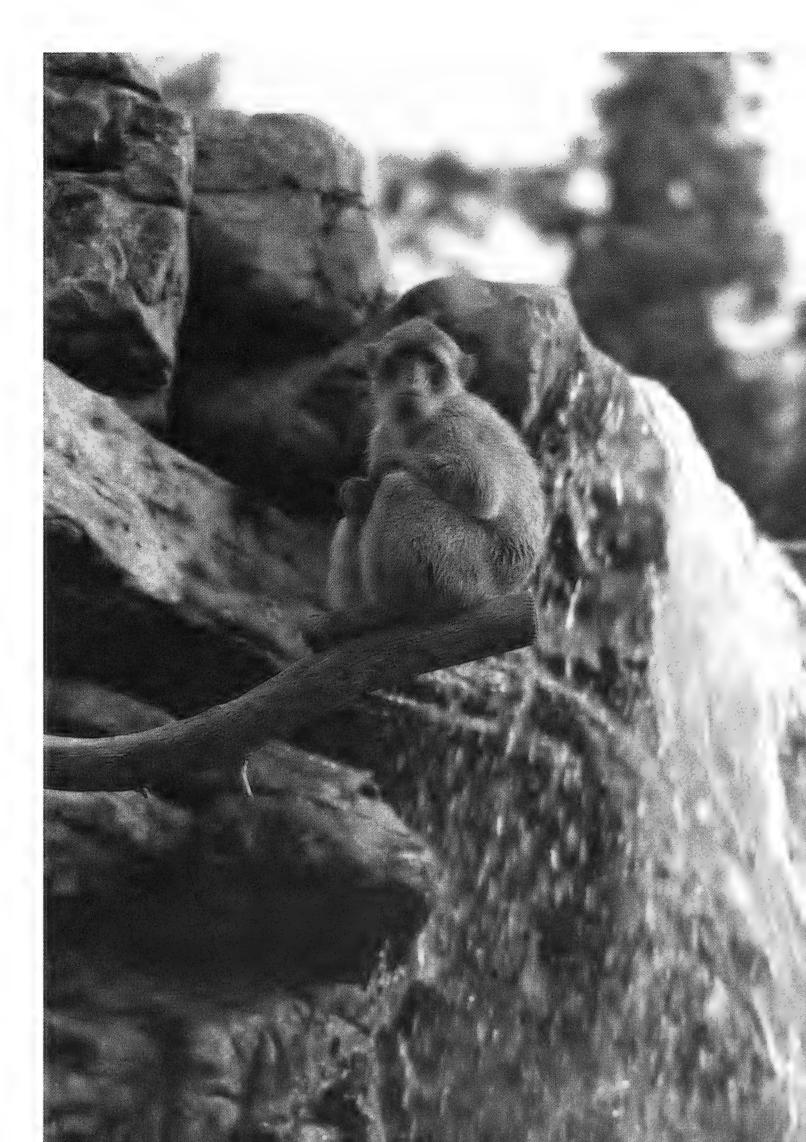
In 1984, a scientist from the Department of Zoological Research visited Guam to rescue some of the last rails. Through the cooperation of several Zoos and international organizations, CRC scientists hope to introduce the rails to Guam or nearby snakeless islands. To minimize the deleterious effects of inbreeding in the small population, Zoo scientists determine the relationships between selected rails before they breed them by "mapping" the DNA in the birds' blood. The first clutch of rails hatched at the

Right: Barbary Apes on Monkey Island, opened in 1982.

Photo by Jessie Cohen/NZP Graphics

Center in 1987.

Similarly, significant developments in artificial reproduction pioneered in the Department of Animal Health may eventually make possible breeding of animals that do not reproduce successfully in zoos. Scientists in the program study techniques for sperm and egg banking, in order to save genetic material for possible use at a later date. This technique may allow





Kittens born from in vitro fertilization.

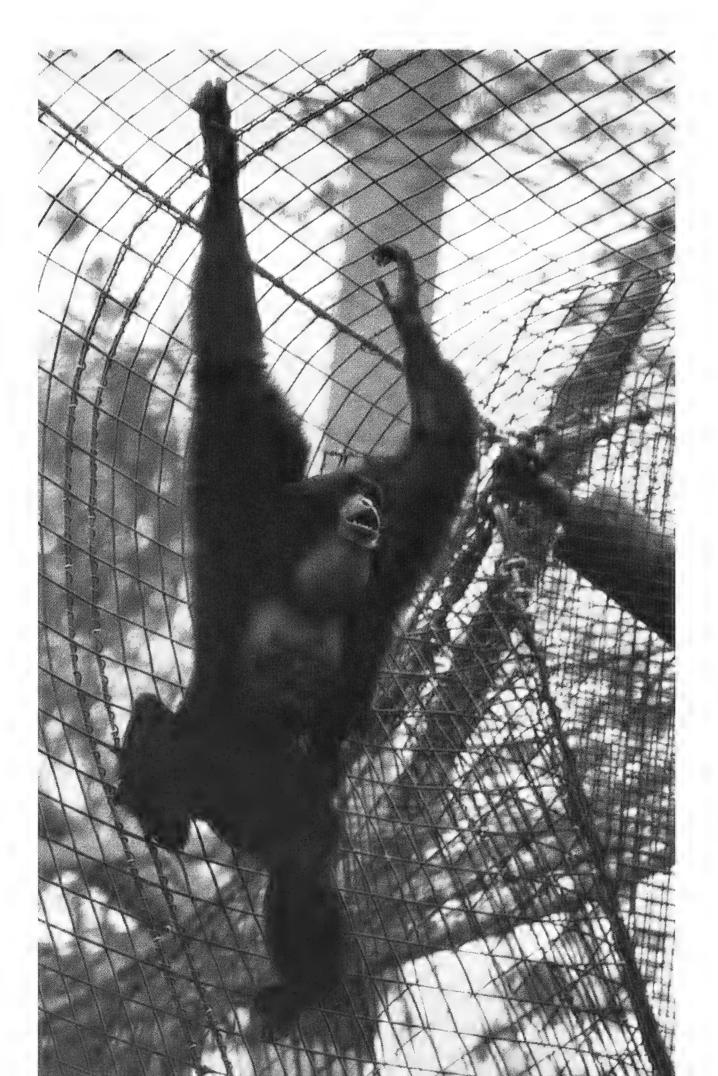
Photo by Jessie Cohen/NZP Graphics

scientists to "breed" animals that cannot be mated at the same location or even at the same time.

In a related project, Zoo scientists are studying "test-tube" babies. In 1987, scientists at the Zoo's Department of Animal Health combined eggs and sperm from domestic cats and then transferred the embryo to a cat's uterus. The experiment produced the first carnivores born through *in vitro* fertilization. *In vitro* fertilization may someday be used to propagate endangered species that cannot or will not breed. For animals like the Guam rails and the giant

pandas that are nearly extinct, advances in artificial breeding may be their only hope for survival in Zoos or in the wild.

Another way Zoo scientists work to ensure greater genetic diversity is through the Species Survival Plan (SSP). Sponsored by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA), the program provides a way for zoos to organize breeding plans, and to lend animals for breeding purposes. National Zoo scientists coordinate SSPs for some species, such as red pandas, golden lion tamarins, and maned



Gibbon Ridge, opened in 1988, has vine-like ropes for the gibbons to swing through the enclosure.

Photo by Jessie Cohen/NZP Graphics



Children in Zoolab.

wolves, and participate in the SSPs for many others. In addition to significant advances in research and

in the care of animals, Zoo staff have developed innovative designs for the animals' enclosures. During Reed's tenure, from 1956 to 1984, the Zoo built the Great Flight Cage, Giant Panda House, General Services Building, Great Ape House, the Mann Lion/Tiger Exhibit, and Monkey Island. Finished in 1974, the Lion/Tiger Exhibit uses moats to enclose the cats, providing maximum visibility for visitors and privacy for the cats. Similarly, Monkey Island, completed in 1983, uses filtered water that flows from the moat through a rock mountain and back as a waterfall, and contains the Barbary macaques without visual obstruction.

After Reed retired, Dr. Christen Wemmer, curator-

in-charge of the Conservation and Research Center served as interim director of the National Zoo.

In May 1984, Dr. Michael H. Robinson left his post as Deputy Director of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama to become the Zoo's Director. Like the Zoo's founders, he emphasizes education and research. The renovated Olmsted Walk, creative exhibits such as Gibbon Ridge with vine-like rope ladders and swings that encourage activity and natural behavior, and the new high-tech veterinary hospital fuse these goals.



Aerial view of the Mann Lion/Tiger Exhibit. Moats contain the animals.

NZP Graphics



In the 1987 Invertebrate Exhibit, visitors use microscopes to view tiny insects.

Photo by Jessie Cohen/NZP Graphics

Challenge of the Future

Robinson, the Zoo has constructed exhibits that recreate the natural ecosystems of plants and animals. These and future exhibits will comprise a BioPark, a park that combines many aspects of biological life—flora and fauna. The 1987 Invertebrate Exhibit exemplifies this modern approach to the Zoo's exhibits. This building contains animals not usually displayed in Zoos, such as spider crabs and sponges, in non-traditional displays that combine living plants and animals, hands-on activities, and art.

The Zoo's designers have landscaped the park to attract indigenous insects, and strive to keep animals in natural social groups in enclosures that resemble the animals' wild habitats. The English Country Garden outside of the Invertebrate Exhibit, for example, attracts colorful butterflies with the insects' favorite flowers such as New England aster, red clover, butterfly bush, and phlox. The new Wetlands Habitat exhibit, officially opened by renowned ornithologist Sir Peter Scott on May 3rd, 1989, successfully recreates a wetlands ecosystem. The exhibit simulates the natural habitat so successfully that wildfowl use the exhibit as a stopover during migration.

In keeping with its new, broad focus, the Zoo exhibits works of art and cultural artifacts as well as flowers, bushes, and trees. "I am convinced that we urgently need to include art in our terms of reference. There is a vast field of graphic art that relates to the world of life," Robinson explained. He perceives the

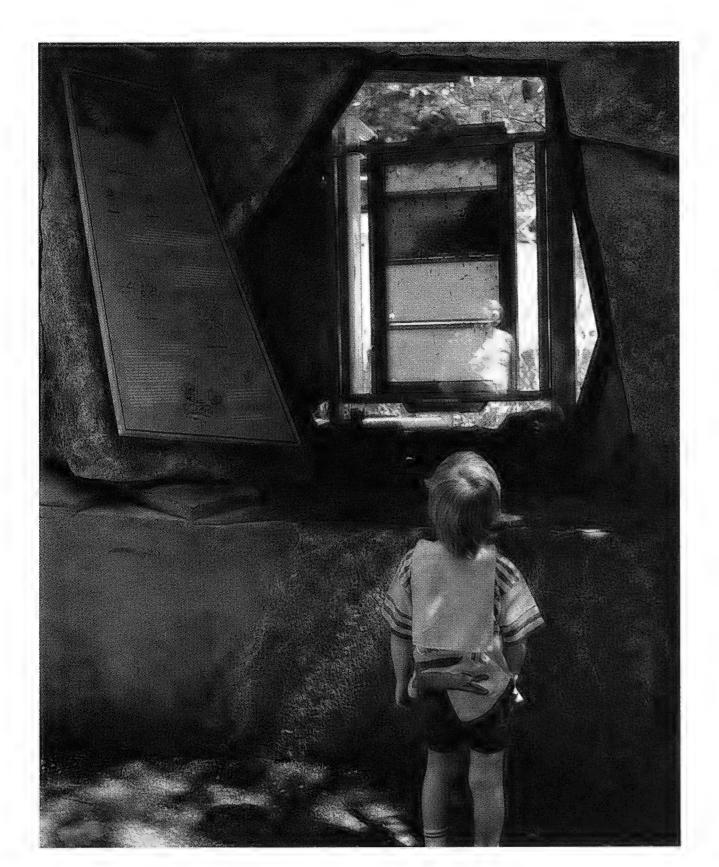
From the walkway in the Wetlands Exhibit the birds can be seen without visual obstruction.

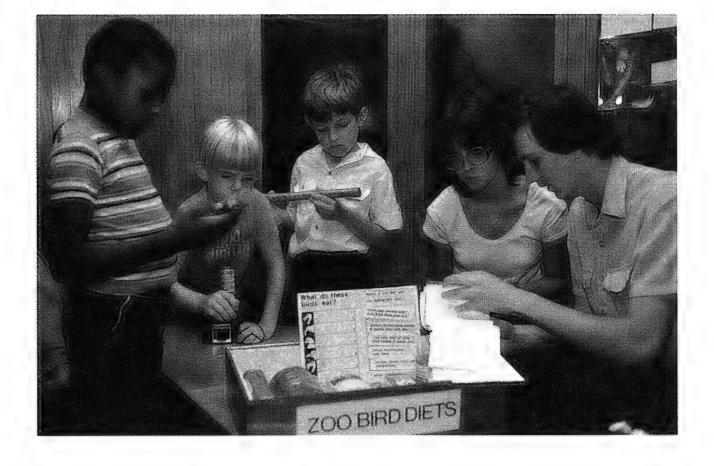
Photo by Jessie Cohen/NZP Graphics



BioPark as a way to "illustrate the past of life on earth and the interdependence of the worlds of land and water." Mammoth skeletons in the Elephant House, models of saber-tooth cats in the Lion-Tiger Exhibit, and the story of man's ancestors in the Great Ape House are some of the ways the Zoo may accomplish these goals.

Such large-scale models complement the intricate exhibits that BioPark plans entail. The Zoo strives for exhibits that are "biologically valid," and that present a range of animals representative of a given ecosystem. The most recent BioPark addition is a honeybee exhibit in Beaver Valley. The glass-sided hive enables children and adults to watch the bees at work. A panel explains their social structure and dance-language. Future BioPark plans include construction of an Amazonia exhibit with an integrated river system, galleries, touch-screen computers, and video discs, and an Australian Pavilion that incorporates aboriginal art





Birdlab (above) and Herplab are innovative centers for family education.

Photo by Jessie Cohen/NZP Graphics

and a Great Barrier Reef community.

In cooperation with the Zoo, the Friends of the National Zoo sponsors educational programs and cultural events that examine human interactions with the plants and animals of the living world.

Robinson views the BioPark as "...the new zoo-thatis not." And, in fact, the Zoo has evolved from a hodgepodge collection of single species in barred cages to exhibits that replicate natural ecosystems. Ideally, through interactive exhibits and events, the BioPark will erase the historical differentiations between natural history museums, Zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens and arboretums, and the arts.

One hundred years later, through advances in breeding, nutrition, veterinary medicine, exhibit design, and education, the National Zoo furthers the mandate of the original 1889 bill, to maintain a Zoo "for the advancement of science and the instruction and recreation of the people." The traditional menagerie has been transformed into a BioPark: a sanctuary in the city where the splendors of the entire biological world are studied, exhibited, and preserved.

The 1989 Honey Bee Exhibit lets visitors watch the bees make honey.

Photo by Jessie Cohen/NZP Graphics

No Longer A Zoo, But A Biopark

or centuries our public displays and institutions have reflected a totally unnatural separation of the different elements of life on earth. Living animals have been exhibited in zoos. Their blossoming in the past, seen through fossils, is found in natural history museums. Living plants are exhibited in botanical gardens and arboretums. Water creatures are often only to be seen in aquariums. At the National Zoo we are determined to put life back together again and progress beyond the zoological park to the biological park. This new biological park will also pay tribute to the long interaction between our own species, humankind, and the rest of the living world that is reflected in the arts and much of our culture.

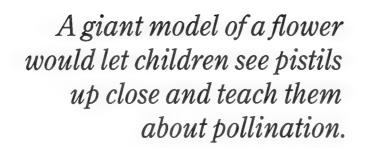
Here National Zoo Director Michael H. Robinson describes his vision of the Biopark:

Plants and Animals

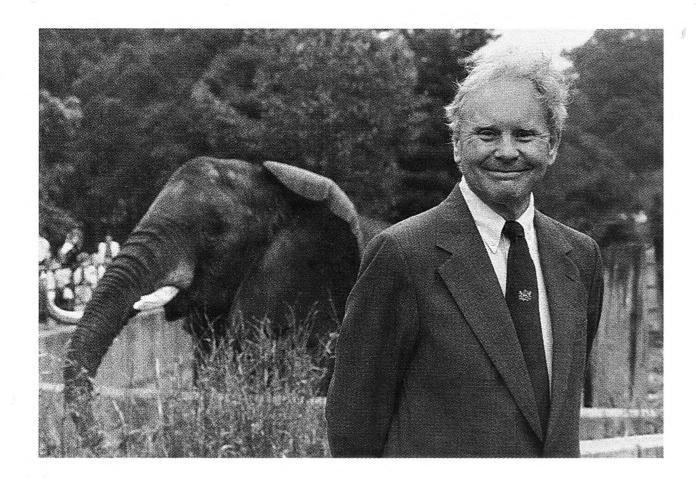
"Animals do not occupy the earth alone; without plants they cannot exist. We have to put plants into the picture here. This does not mean plants as decor or part of a naturalistic illusion. We must show that plants are inextricably the complement of animals, that they are literally our inseparable partners. Flowers are part of this story. In the future the creation of a pollination exhibit will be a step towards the BioPark. It will show a profusion of color and form: flowers that produce all their structures to attract butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and other flower-visiting animals. Models of flowers that children can crawl into will illustrate how they work as the plant's sex organs."

Animals and Art

"Much of art involves a human aesthetic response to the excitement and beauty of animals and plants. Art is inseparable from human endeavor. By displaying objects such as those shown here alongside animals and plants, the Biopark will make connections with art throughout its history and range."







National Zoo Director Michael H. Robinson.

Photo by Jessie Cohen/NZP Graphics

Amazonia

"The world's rainforests are being destroyed at an alarming rate. In the future the Zoo will highlight the marvels of rainforest biology by building an Amazonia exhibit. Designed to introduce visitors to one of the world's most complex habitats, the Amazon rainforest, it will feature underwater views and a walk alongside a forest stream inhabited by birds, fishes, and mammals. All this will be connected to a gallery that will feature focused views of the intricate details of tropical biology. Unique jewel-box exhibits will give visitors opportunities to see into a secret world of exquisite small-scale perfection. The gallery will also feature the excitement and results of Smithsonian tropical research and will be an up-to-the-minute window on global environmental problems."

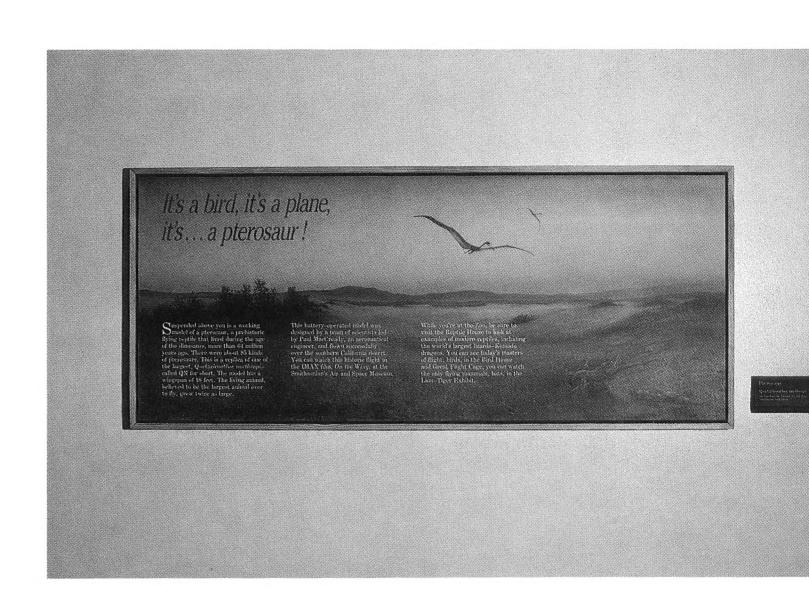
Life of the Past

"Animals have flown for millions of years before airplanes, but the phenomenon of flight is the same for both. The pterosaur hanging in the lobby of the Education Building—a model, on loan from the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, of an extinct reptile—emphasizes the importance of understand-

ing the past history of life as well as our institution's breadth of involvement in history and culture. The BioPark will emphasize the interconnectedness of all nature and of all the Smithsonian's great museums."

Links with the Smithsonian

"Research at the Smithsonian is a varied mosaic of individual efforts. The Zoo's staff is part of a broad-scale concern that is fundamental to the entire Institution, which was founded by James Smithson for "the Increase and Diffusion of Knowledge." A substantial part of this effort is now aimed directly or indirectly, at the conservation of life on earth...in all its glory."



A model of Quetzalcoatlus northropi, an extinct flying reptile, hangs in the Zoo's Education Building.



Call For Nominations

In accordance with Article II, Section 7 of our bylaws, the FONZ Board of Directors is hereby soliciting nominations from the Membership.

Board Responsibilities

As members of a "working" board, FONZ Directors "administer and manage" the affairs of the Friends of the National Zoo. The Board of Directors establishes the policies of the corporation, approves budgets and expenditures, and otherwise directs the activities of FONZ officers and employees. Members of the Board of Directors serve without pay. Much of the Board's work is accomplished through committees.

The Education Committee participates in development of FONZ- supported education programs and supervises educational activities and NZP research grants authorized by the Board.

The Membership Committee is responsible for acquiring new members and for developing membership activities.

The Visitor Services Committee oversees management and operation of FONZ gift shops, bookstore, food, parking, and other visitor service facilities at the Zoo.

Other Board committees are:

Administration, Capital Planning, Development, Finance and Audit, FONZ/SI Contracts, Nominating, ZooFari, and Publications Advisory Group.

All Board members are expected to serve on at least two committees and attend one or more meetings or functions a month.

The criteria by which potential candidates are judged for nomination to the Board of Directors are: the candidate's strong interest in supporting zoological education, research, and conservation in accordance with the purposes of our corporation; leadership; experience or skills that are needed and would directly benefit the management and operations of FONZ; and the willingness and time to participate fully in FONZ work and activities. Candidates must be dues-paying members of FONZ.

Nomination Procedures

Nominations may be made only by dues-paying family, double, or individual members in good standing. (Senior citizens, contributing, and patron members of FONZ and members who previously joined the corporation as life members are entitled to all rights and privileges of dues-paying family, double, and individual members.) Employees of FONZ or the National Zoo are not eligible for membership on the FONZ Board of Directors.

Nominations must be submitted on an official FONZ Nomination Form with a biographical sketch of the nominee attached. Nomination forms can be obtained at the FONZ office or will be mailed upon request. For information or forms, call 673-4950. The deadline for submitting Nomination Forms and accompanying biographical sketches is July 24, 1989. Address submissions to:

Robert A. Peck, Chair, Nominating Committee FONZ National Zoological Park Washington, D.C. 20008. Friends of the National Zoo National Zoological Park Washington, D.C. 20008

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